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# PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

## I.—NERVOUS SYSTEM.

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OBERSTEINER, *Die neueren Anschauungen über den Aufbau des Nervensystems*, Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau, 1892, VIII, Nos. 1 and 2.

In less than half a dozen pages the author gives a very clear and judicious statement of the newer observations and theories which are the present guiding lines for research in the anatomy of the nervous system. Further comment is unnecessary except a word on a new term which appears in the article. For the most part anatomists take the view that the nerve cell and the nerve-fibre form a physiological unit and anatomically it is quite impossible to determine where one stops and the other begins. For the nerve cell and all its prolongations Waldeyer has suggested the term, *Neuron*. This fills so long felt a want and fills it so well, that there can be little question of its acceptance and hence the word of explanation.

LANGLEY AND SHERRINGTON, *On pilo-motor nerves*, Journal of Physiology, 1891, XII, 278.

The authors designate as pilo-motor those nerves which control the erection of the hairs or to use a single word, cause horripilation.

The experiments were made on a monkey, a young female *Macacus rhesus*, and on cats. In all cases these nerves issue from the spinal cord by way of the ventral nerve roots and pass into the sympathetic ganglia; from there they are distributed to the skin.

The special arrangements are as follows: in the monkey the pilo-motor nerve-fibres for the head and face arise mainly from the third and fourth and less numerous from the second and fifth thoracic nerves. They pass cephalad in the cervical sympathetic and are connected with nerve cells in the superior cervical ganglion.

On stimulating the sympathetic nerve horripilation (in head and face) occurs chiefly on the homonymous side, but at the same time crosses the middle line to some extent.

On section of the sympathetic nerve the hairs lie abnormally flat in the effected region and remain so for many weeks.

In such a monkey anger and fear cause horripilation on the sound side only. The pilo-motor nerve-fibres issue in the roots of the twelfth thoracic, first, second, and third lumbar nerves, pass into the lumbosacral sympathetic chain and descend in it.

In the cat the pilo-motor nerve fibres are found in each nerve from the fourth thoracic to the third lumbar inclusive, sometimes also in the third thoracic. The fibres from the third or fourth to the seventh thoracic inclusive, run cephalad in the cervical sympathetic, join cells in the superior cervical ganglion, and innervate the skin on the head and